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January 21, 2004 LB 602

relating to ethics and the disposition of the embryo. could go on and on and on regarding the decisions that we face as policy makers, as lawmakers, that we could talk about the decisions that physicians face, we could talk decisions that researchers face. But I'm finding that there is more out there in terms of support, secular support--I do want to emphasize, secular support--for public policy that will prevent the creation of embryo farms. Therapeutic cloning leads to an embryo farm. And I believe that we as policy makers, we need to establish policy in Nebraska that we have a dignified view of life, the continuum of life that exists from the time of conception, from that time forward, to natural death. makers do a lot to try to prevent natural death. In fact, we talk about that in many of the policies that we discuss here on the floor of this Legislature. As I watched the State of the Union Address last night, and there seemed to be a tipping scale of who would applaud for what issue, and there was disagreement on the issues. But above all else, there was the public forum for the discussion of issues. That's why we're here. We can, in my belief, we can constructively discuss an issue and come up with public policy here in the state of Nebraska that's not exactly unique. Other states have already addressed this, and in fact, Michigan has addressed the destruction of human embryos, and they're doing quite well in research in Michigan. LB 602 seeks to codify the current policy in place at the University of Nebraska. Their policy has existed for quite some time, or for a couple of years, I believe. And the University of Nebraska came in neutral to the hearing last year. There was some opposition testimony. And I am looking for ways that we can address this issue, and want to have a good, thorough debate here, and arrive at a decision that is in the best public...or in the best interest of the public of Nebraska, and regardless of age and regardless of disposition, along the continuum of life. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Brashear, as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, you're recognized to review or reopen, whatever, on the committee amendments to LB 602.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. The Judiciary Committee amendment furthers the purpose of